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Secretariat

6 July 1999

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: **Implementation of a new desktop operating system on personal computers at Headquarters**

1. The present information circular is to inform all staff that Windows 98 is to become the standard operating system for all personal computers at Headquarters.

2. A project to upgrade all personal computers to the Windows 95 operating system was completed in 1998 by the Information Technology Services Division. However, the current version of Windows 95 is not fully year 2000 compliant, while Windows 98 fully addresses all year 2000 issues and also includes significant improvements to desktop operations. The upgrading of Windows 95, to make it fully year 2000 compliant, would require the installation of several patches on each desktop. It was therefore concluded that, instead of installing the software patches, it would be more cost-effective to upgrade all desktops from Windows 95 to Windows 98. This will also allow the Secretariat to be up-to-date with the most recent desktop operating system.

3. In reaching this decision, due consideration was given to the fact that the Windows 98 user interface is very similar to that of Windows 95 and that, therefore, the transition will not be difficult for the end-user. Furthermore, a powerful and user-friendly help facility is included with the delivered operating system.

4. Beginning in July 1999, the Information Technology Services Division will assist users and LAN administrators with the upgrade. A schedule for implementation in each office will be prepared by the Division in collaboration with the technical focal point for each area.

5. Any queries concerning the information given in the present circular should be addressed to your local technical focal point or to the Information Technology Services Division help desk.

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* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 December 2000.

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